

**KINDLY ENTER THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Column 1, prior to the "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following lines:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of reissue application Serial No. 09/442,082, filed November 15, 1999. --

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

16. An exhalation permitting filter mask assembly for positioning over the mouth and nose of a user, the filter mask assembly comprising:

a mask configured to fit over the nose and mouth of a user and including filter material through which air can be inhaled by a user while effecting filtration of the inhaled air;